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IDHS Announces Appointment of Christine Haley as State Homelessness Chief

CHICAGO – Today, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced the appointment of Christine Haley as State Homelessness Chief. In this role, which was created by EO 2021-21 (*Executive Order To [Fight Homelessness in Illinois](#)*) issued on Sept. 3 by Governor Pritzker, Haley will lead the State’s comprehensive effort to decrease homelessness in Illinois, improve outcomes for people who experience homelessness and strengthen the safety nets that contribute to housing stability. Christine will chair the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and co-chair the Community Advisory Council on Homelessness, as part of her work.

“Housing is about justice. It’s about every Illinois resident having the right to feel safe and settled in a space they can call home,” **said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton.**

“Our administration is putting policies and resources to work in a comprehensive effort to decrease homelessness in Illinois. Congratulations to Christine Haley. We are excited to have her join us in this new role as we all continue this important work.”

“I am elated to have Christine join IDHS as State Homelessness Chief– her experience and knowledge will make a difference in the lives of thousands of Illinois residents who are experiencing homelessness,” **said Grace B. Hou, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services.** “Her commitment to equity, and her substantial work on major housing projects, procurements, grant management, and program evaluation make her the perfect leader for this role.”

Haley will also serve as a policymaker and spokesperson on homelessness prevention, coordinating a multi-agency effort and communicating with community-based stakeholders and elected officials on critical housing issues.

“We have an incredible opportunity to fight homelessness through the collective efforts of persons experiencing homelessness, community providers, and coordinated government departments,” **said Christine Haley, State Homelessness Chief.** “I am thankful for Governor Pritzker and his administration for taking the bold steps to create the Interagency Task Force and Community Advisory Council. I look forward to creating a visionary plan with the community to prevent and end homelessness for Illinois residents.”

Haley brings more than 18-years of experience in the housing field, including extensive work in programs designed to prevent homelessness and create housing stability. Prior to joining IDHS, she was the Director of Housing at Cook County Health (CCH), leading programmatic and financial investments in housing for patients experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

She worked across the CCH public health and hospital system, coordinating and supporting housing and health integration activities with Departments including Policy & Government Affairs, Emergency Medicine, Trauma & Burn, Family Medicine, Maternal & Child Health, Behavioral Health, the Cook County Jail, and the Cook County Department of Public Health. Haley served on the Chicago Homeless Continuum of Care Board of Directors and the suburban Alliance to End Homelessness Board of Directors.

Haley previously served as Senior Director of Programs at Housing Opportunities for Women from 2018-2019. She was responsible for client-centered programs, including planning, organizing, staffing, evaluating, and monitoring at the community-based homeless services agency.

From 2016-2018, she was the Founding Executive Director for the Chicago Torture Justice Center and provided strategic guidance and advanced the organization’s vision to provide mental health and community services to survivors of police violence. Other past positions include serving as Associate Director for the Corporation for Supportive Housing and serving as Associate Director for Heartland Human Care Services, where she had oversight of the Supportive Housing Department.

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